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ORIGIN PRM-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	OASY-00	EAP-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	TEDE-00
	IO-16	ADS-00	OIC-02	SR-00	SS-00	FMP-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/041R					

DRAFTED BY: PRM/AAA: MJMCKELVEY

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AF: PXBUSHNELL

G: AJOYCE

IO/UNP: GHSTANTON (INFO)

DRL/AAA: RPOWERS (INFO)

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P R 100025Z DEC 94  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 328504

GENEVA FOR RMA ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREF RW BY TZ CG UG

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL RWANDA/BURUNDI REFUGEE CONFERENCE  
REF: (A) 94 GENEVA 10498, (B) 94 ADDIS ABAB 9362,  
(C) 94 STATE 297649

1. DEPARTMENT IS VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR A REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE ON RWANDAN AND BURUNDI REFUGEES APPEARS TO HAVE SLIPPED FROM DECEMBER UNTIL EARLY JANUARY PER REFS A AND B. WE HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT WITH JUST DAYS REMAINING BEFORE A MEETING WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN ADDIS -- VARIOUSLY DECEMBER 12 OR DECEMBER 15 -- THE SEVERAL CONVENORS (UNHCR, OAU, AND THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT) APPEARED NOT TO HAVE AGREED ON A DATE OR VENUE OR SENT INVITATIONS TO THE PROSPECTIVE ATTENDEES. GIVEN THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN AN ADEQUATELY-PLANNED, SERIOUSLY-ATTENDED, ACTION-ORIENTED CONFERENCE, WE CONCEDE THAT A MEETING SHOULD PROBABLY BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. INDEED, SOME POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE OCCUPIED WITH THE NEXT RWANDA OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP (AKA FRIENDS OF RWANDA) MEETING IN NEW YORK DECEMBER 16.

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2. AT THE FIRST (NOVEMBER 22) FRIENDS OF RWANDA MEETING IN WASHINGTON, ALMOST ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE OAU PROPOSAL OF MARCH 1995 FOR A REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE WAS TOO LATE. (COMMENT. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED TO SEE PER REF A THAT THE OAU IS STICKING TO THIS TIMETABLE. END COMMENT.) IN ORDER TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM, WE HAD SUGGESTED A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER AND A PLENARY CONFERENCE IN JANUARY (BUT NO LATER THAN MARCH). WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY WEDDED TO THE IDEA OF SEQUENTIAL MEETINGS AND WOULD WELCOME A PLENARY WORKING CONFERENCE IN JANUARY IN BUJUMBURA EVEN WITHOUT A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF A REGIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE SHAPED MUCH MORE BY THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS THAN IT WILL BE BY THE QUALITY OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM PAPERS.

3. FOR ADDIS AND GENEVA: PLEASE CONVEY TO THE OAU AND UNHCR OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE CURRENT SLIPPAGE AND OUR FIRM EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE SOME KIND OF REGIONAL GATHERING IN JANUARY (COORDINATED SO AS NOT TO CONFLICT WITH THE PLANNED UNDP ROUNDTABLE JANUARY 17-18 IN GENEVA).

4. FOR ADDIS: PLEASE STRESS TO THE OAU THAT MARCH IS

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MUCH TOO LATE A DATE FOR DEALING WITH THE EXPLOSIVE  
SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

5. BUJUMBURA: PLEASE CONFIRM AS REQUESTED REF C THAT  
BURUNDI IS INDEED COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING THE BURUNDI  
REFUGEE SITUATION AS WELL.

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6. FOR KIGALI, BUJUMBURA, KINSHASA, KAMPALA, AND DAR ES  
SALAAM: PLEASE ADVISE AS TO CURRENT THINKING OF REGIONAL  
PLAYERS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE.  
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